

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A multimodal polyethylene composition for pipes, which multimodal polyethylene has a density of 0.930-0.965 g/cm³ and an MFR₅ of 0.2-1.2 g/10 min, characterised in that the multimodal polyethylene has an M_n of 8000-15000, an M_w of 180-330 x 10³, and an M_w/M_n of 20-35, said multimodal polyethylene comprising a low molecular weight (LMW) ethylene homopolymer fraction and a high molecular weight (HMW) ethylene copolymer fraction, said HMW fraction having a lower molecular weight limit of 3500, and a weight ratio of the LMW fraction to the HMW fraction of (35-55):(65-45).
2. (original) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimodal polymer is a bimodal polyethylene produced by (co)polymerisation in at least two steps.
3. (original) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylene copolymer of the HMW fraction is a copolymer of ethylene and a comonomer selected from the group consisting of 1-butene, 1-hexene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, and 1-octene.
4. (amended) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of comonomer is 0.4-3.5 mol% of the multimodal polymer.
5. (amended) A multimodal polymer composition according to claim 1, having a weight ratio of the LMW fraction to the HMW fraction of (43-51):(57-49).
6. (amended) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimodal polymer has an MFR₅ of 0.3-1.0 g/10 min.
7. (original) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer is obtained by slurry polymerisation in a loop reactor of a LMW ethylene homopolymer fraction, followed by gas-phase polymerisation of a HMW ethylene copolymer fraction.
8. (original) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the slurry polymerisation is preceded by a prepolymerisation step.

9. (original) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the polymer is obtained by prepolymerisation in a loop reactor, followed by slurry polymerisation in a loop reactor of a LMW ethylene homopolymer fraction, and gas-phase polymerisation of a HMW ethylene copolymer fraction.
10. (amended) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein polymerisation procatalyst and cocatalyst are added to the first polymerisation reactor only.
11. (Amended) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polymerisation catalyst is a Ziegler-Natta catalyst.
12. (original) A pipe characterised in that it is a pressure pipe comprising the multimodal polymer composition according to any one of the preceding claims, which pipe withstands a pressure of 8.0 MPa gauge during 50 years at 20° C (MRS8.0).
13. (original) A pipe as claimed in claim 12, wherein the pipe is a pressure pipe withstanding a pressure of 10 MPa gauge during 50 years at 20° C (MRS10.0).
14. (amended) A pipe as claimed in claim 12, wherein the pipe has a rapid crack propagation (RCP) S4-value of -1°C or lower.
15. (original) A pipe as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pipe has a rapid crack propagation (RCP) S4-value of -7° C of lower.
16. (new) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein polymerisation procatalyst and cocatalyst are added to the first polymerisation reactor only.
17. (new) A multimodal polymer composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein polymerisation procatalyst and cocatalyst are added to the first polymerisation reactor only.